

REMARKS

I. Summary of the Examiner's Action

A. Claim Rejections

Claims 14, 15 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,442,625 to Gitlin *et al.* (hereinafter “the Gitlin patent”) in view of United States Patent No. 6,115,608 to Duran (hereinafter “the Duran patent”).

These rejections are respectfully disagreed with, and traversed below.

B. Claim Allowances and Objections

The Examiner allowed claims 1 – 13.

The Examiner objected to claims 16, 18 and 19 as being dependent upon a rejected base, but indicated claims 16, 18 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

II. Applicants' Response

A. Rejection of Claims 14, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Applicants have amended claim 14 to recite the objected-to subject matter of claim 16 (now cancelled). As a result of this amendment, claim 14 is now allowable. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claim 14 be withdrawn.

Claim 15 is now allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claim 15 be withdrawn.

Applicants have amended claim 17 to recite the objected-to subject matter of claim 18 (now cancelled). As a result of this amendment, claim 17 is now allowable. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claim 17 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, claims 14, 15 and 17 are now allowable.

B. Claims 16, 18 and 19

Applicants have amended independent claims 14 and 17 to recite the subject matter of objected claims 16 and 18, respectively, and have cancelled claims 16 and 18.

Applicants have amended objected-to dependent claim 19 (now an independent claim) to recite the subject matter of claim 17. In view of the amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 19 is now allowable.

III. Conclusion

Applicants submit that in light of the foregoing amendments and remarks the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn and that the case be passed to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

August 31, 2006
Date

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